

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 30, 2004, **JOHN SCOTT PENROD**, age 38, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois.

PENROD was sentenced to 384 months (32 years) imprisonment, five years supervised release, and was fined \$500. PENROD had previously been convicted following a jury trial of one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846, and four counts of distribution of crack cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841.

A number of co-defendants have previously been sentenced in this case. Co-conspirator **JAMES D. SUGGS** was previously sentenced to 192 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **ROBERT L. BARBER** was previously sentenced to 151 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **GEORGE W. McNAIR** was previously sentenced to 312 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **KEVIN J. DAVENPORT** was previously sentenced to 188 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **LAWRENCE BRYANT** was previously sentenced to 108 months imprisonment. Co-conspirator **MARTY BRYANT** was previously sentenced to 235 months imprisonment.

Co-conspirator **KARLYSS LITTLE** was also convicted following a jury trial. His sentencing is to be set at a future date by the court.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation and has prosecuted a number of individuals in related cases in Jefferson County Circuit Court.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.

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